

ABSTRACT

The present invention provides a mega-boule for use in fabricating microchannel plates (MCPs). The mega-boule includes a cross-sectional surface having at least first, second and third areas, each area occupying a distinct portion of the cross-sectional surface. The first and second areas include a plurality of optical fibers, transversely oriented to the cross-sectional surface, each optical fiber having a cladding formed of non-etchable material and a core formed of etchable material. The third area is disposed interstitially between and surrounding the first and second areas, and includes non-etchable material.